

Energy - Docket Optical System

From: mark@thebuildingdoctors.com on behalf of Mark Hensley [mark@buildingdoctors.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 12:00 AM
To: Energy - Docket Optical System
Cc: Dan Thomsen
Subject: docket number 12-EBP-1 "Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Program for Existing Buildings (AB 758) Scoping Report Staff Workshop"

Categories: Ready to Docket



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My story to whom it may concern,

My name is Mark Hensley I live in Venice Beach California.

In 2007 I became unemployed when funding to my newly started company dried up because of the recession. As a B licensed contractor I took advantage of available trainings due to the Reinvestment Act in Energy Efficiency first thru the EDD which trained me at Santa Monica College. Then thru the CBPCA where I earned my BPI Building Analyst Certification. I then became a Green Point Rater as well as a Green Building Professional from Build it Green.

I have been gainfully employed for 3.5 years now with a Home Performance Contractor in the Los Angeles area called Building Doctors. I have learned all aspects of the business and have grown along with the company I work with. I love my work and feel so very fortunate to work in the Energy Efficiency field.

At first I got into the field because it seemed like a good new opportunity in the construction field especially since the construction unemployment rate was over 40% here in LA. As I learned more from the trainings and then on the job experience my reason for staying in the field is that I feel I help people every day. And in doing so I help insure their families health and safety by all the safety checks that I'm required to perform. I show people how to save on precious resources by making their home more energy efficient which in turn makes their home more comfortable. Sometimes they didn't even know they were uncomfortable to begin with, I especially love that. All the people we work with are happy and we leave them with a happy and healthy home.

One of my job assignments was to scout homes for the LA County "Home Makeover Contest." Not much of a contest it was more of a try-out since we needed to find a homes with a certain job scope and in certain geographical areas for each participating contractor. The owners had to be capable of doing promotions for the program and the participating contractor. So allot of deserving good families never stood a chance and I knew it since my recommendation was not certain to go to them for the good reasons above. This experience opened my eyes to a big problem.

There are many areas in LA County where families are living in extremely dangerous conditions and I'm mostly talking about Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning from an old heating system and water heater inside their home. These families need the most help and are the least likely to get it because of lack of knowledge and resources to correct the issues. Simply Weatherizing is not enough, and in some cases it could adversely affect the occupants by tightening the building shell and subjecting them to even higher levels of CO.

As a nation we should get more serious about Energy Efficiency. If we did, we would save natural resources, lower carbon emissions, not have to build more power plants, not have to import oil from other countries, make our homes more safe, more durable, more comfortable, save money and create jobs.

Energy Efficiency is good for America.

Regards,
Mark Hensley
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